

NCAPNorthwest Coalition for
Alternatives to Pesticides

January 27, 2005

Washington State Department of Agriculture,
Endangered Species Program
1111 Washington St. 2nd Floor
PO BOX 42589
Olympia, WA 98504-2589

Dear Endangered Species Program Staff,

On behalf of over 200 Washington members of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), we ask the Washington State Department of Agriculture to reject the proposed state endangered species plan.

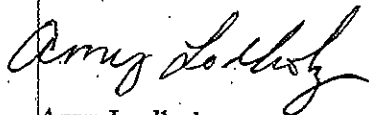
There are several problems with this plan. First, the plan needs to ban or drastically restrict pesticides that pollute salmon streams at harmful levels. Second, the WSDA should use its surface monitoring program to develop scientific information to support actions to protect water quality, rather than convincing the public that pesticides do not pollute water.

Next, the WSDA should stop efforts to convince the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce protections that can result in additional damage to the water quality. A reduction in the water quality, because of these reduced restrictions, will further endanger the health of people and salmon, and ultimately Washington state's economy.

Finally, we ask that consultations with the EPA be based on allowed uses of pesticides, not an estimation of use. It is not wise to minimize protections for salmon based on the hopeful assumption that growers will use less than what is allowed.

It is a critical time for salmon and we hope the WSDA will take bold steps to effectively control the amount of pesticides that contaminate streams and expose fish, thereby setting an example for other administrations.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director

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